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EVENING PAPERS : FRIDAY, 24TH FEBRUARY, 1950.

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EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS - AUSTRALIA, DECEMBER, 1949.

Rise in Employment during 1949.

Monthly records of employment relate to all wage and salary earners, except those in rural industry and female private domestic service, that is, about 90 per cent of all wage and salary earners in employment.

During the year 1949 the number of such wage and salary earners rose from 2,416,700 in December, 1948 to 2,497,000 in December, 1949. Of the total rise of 80,300 (3.3 per cent) 62,700 were males and 17,600 were females. The figure for December, 1949 was an all-time record for Australia.

EMPLOYMENT IN STATES.

The numbers of employees at work in each State and Territory were as follows:

State	December, 1948	December, 1949	Increase during 1949	
				%
New South Wales	981,400	1,005,200	23,800	2.4
Victoria	682,900	706,500	23,600	3.5
Queensland	311,900	323,500	11,600	3.7
South Australia	203,700	213,300	9,600	4.7
Western Australia	149,500	157,200	7,700	5.2
Tasmania	74,000	76,700	2,700	3.6
Northern Territory	4,700	5,200	500	10.6
Aust. Cap. Territory	8,600	9,400	800	9.3
Commonwealth	2,416,700	2,497,000	80,300	3.3

CHANGES IN INDUSTRIAL GROUPS.

During 1949 the biggest percentage change in employment in the major industrial groups occurred in Building and Construction which increased by 10 per cent from 174,300 to 191,700. The biggest numerical change occurred in Factories which increased from 837,100 to 856,100 (2.2 per cent).

CHANGES DURING DECEMBER, 1949.

During the month of December, 1949 most of the fluctuations in employees at work were largely due to seasonal conditions. The number of employees in Retail Trade rose by 8,600, while factory employment fell by 2,600. Government employment rose by 5,200 due largely to temporary employment of postal staff to handle Christmas business and to increases in employment by the railways and wheat silos. Total employees at work increased by 9,500 persons.

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